

May 22, 1961

Professor Dr. J. Tomcsik  
University of Basel  
Institute for Hygiene and Bacteriology  
Petersplatz 10  
Basel, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Tomcsik:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 18. I certainly did know Professor Boivin, having met him when he visited the United States in 1947 for the Cold Spring Harbor Symposium. Professor Tatum and I had a delightful time with him and we also participated briefly in a collaborative attempt to verify and extend his observations on the transformation of E. coli. In the long run we were unable to do so - as Boivin was able to tell us, the strains had lost their original unstable colonial and antigenic character. As you know his untimely death then supervened.

I was very much interested to hear that he had written on exobiology, and I would be most grateful to you if you could furnish more particulars of his work. If you have any access to a copy of his book, I would be very happy to reimburse you for the cost of obtaining it.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

TOMCSIK, J.